

Mr. FAIRCLOTH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak as in morning business for 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### WELFARE REFORM

Mr. FAIRCLOTH. Mr. President, on the night of January 9, while this city was buried under a record snowfall, President Clinton vetoed the welfare reform conference report by this Congress, thereby blocking real welfare reform. Recent news accounts suggest that an effort is underway to resurrect the Senate-passed welfare bill and send that to the President.

I rise today to state that I would be strongly opposed to doing that. As I just said, Mr. President, the fact of the matter is simply this: The Congress has passed a bill and demonstrated its commitment to real welfare reform. It is time the President quit talking about welfare reform and demonstrate his commitment to it.

Mr. President, the President promised to "end welfare as we know it," but I think it is time he did a better job explaining what he means by ending welfare as we know it before we send him another bill.

The welfare reform bill that President Clinton opposes takes the first step in 60 years of the welfare programs toward requiring that recipients work for their benefits.

The welfare reform bill that President Clinton opposes takes important steps to stop and slow the growth in illegitimacy, which is the root cause of welfare dependency, and we are still subsidizing it.

The welfare reform bill that we have passed places a 5-year limit on receiving benefits and consolidates the Federal welfare bureaucracy and returns power to the States; toughens child support enforcement laws; prevents noncitizens from receiving benefits; and saves working American taxpayers \$60 billion. It was a good bill that we sent the President. The conference report was a good bill, and he stood up at the State of the Union Address and said, "I am for welfare reform," but vetoes it.

I voted against the Senate welfare reform bill because it excluded critically important illegitimacy provisions such as a family cap and a limit on the sub-

sidies for children born out of wedlock. I support the improved conference report as it was sent to the President as a first step toward requiring real work from welfare recipients, reducing illegitimacy, and slowing the unrestrained growth of welfare spending.

President Clinton simply does not want welfare reform by requiring work and reducing illegitimacy. What he means by "welfare reform" and what he meant when he said we "misunderstood him," what he meant when he said he was going to "end welfare as we have known it," was that he was going to put more money into it than we ever heard of, he was going to hire more people to administer the program, and he was going to put more people on the welfare program. That is what he means by ending welfare as we have known it.

I urge my colleagues in both Houses to stand by the welfare reform conference report, let the President come forward with his version of welfare reform before we retreat from a good product and a year's work. Let him bring us one.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FAIRCLOTH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### JOINT MEETING OF THE TWO HOUSES—ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC

Mr. FAIRCLOTH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the President of the Senate be authorized to appoint a committee on the part of the Senate to join with a like committee on the part of the House of Representatives to escort His Excellency Jacques Chirac, President of the French Republic, into the House Chamber for the joint meeting on Thursday, February 1, 1996.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1996

Mr. FAIRCLOTH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the

Senate completes its business today it stand in adjournment until the hour of 10:30 a.m., Thursday, February 1; further, that immediately following the prayer the Journal of proceedings be deemed approved to date, no resolutions come over under the rule, the call of the calendar be dispensed with, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate then immediately resume consideration of S. 1541, the farm bill, as under the previous agreement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FAIRCLOTH. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that, notwithstanding rule XXII and the recess of the Senate for the joint meeting, Senators have until the hour of 12 noon on Thursday in order to file first-degree amendments to the substitute amendment, and that Senators have until the hour of 1 p.m. on Thursday in order to file second-degree amendments.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### PROGRAM

Mr. FAIRCLOTH. For the information of all Senators, the Senate will reconvene on Thursday at 10:30 a.m. and will resume consideration of the farm bill under the unanimous-consent agreement. There will be at least two cloture votes beginning at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday. Additional rollcall votes may be necessary in order to complete action on the farm bill during tomorrow's session.

Again, as a reminder to Senators, there will be a joint meeting beginning at 11:45 a.m. on Thursday for an address by the President of France, President Chirac.

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. FAIRCLOTH. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that the Senate now stand in adjournment as under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:13 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, February 1, 1996, at 10:30 a.m..